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INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

NAGPUR

AGENDA



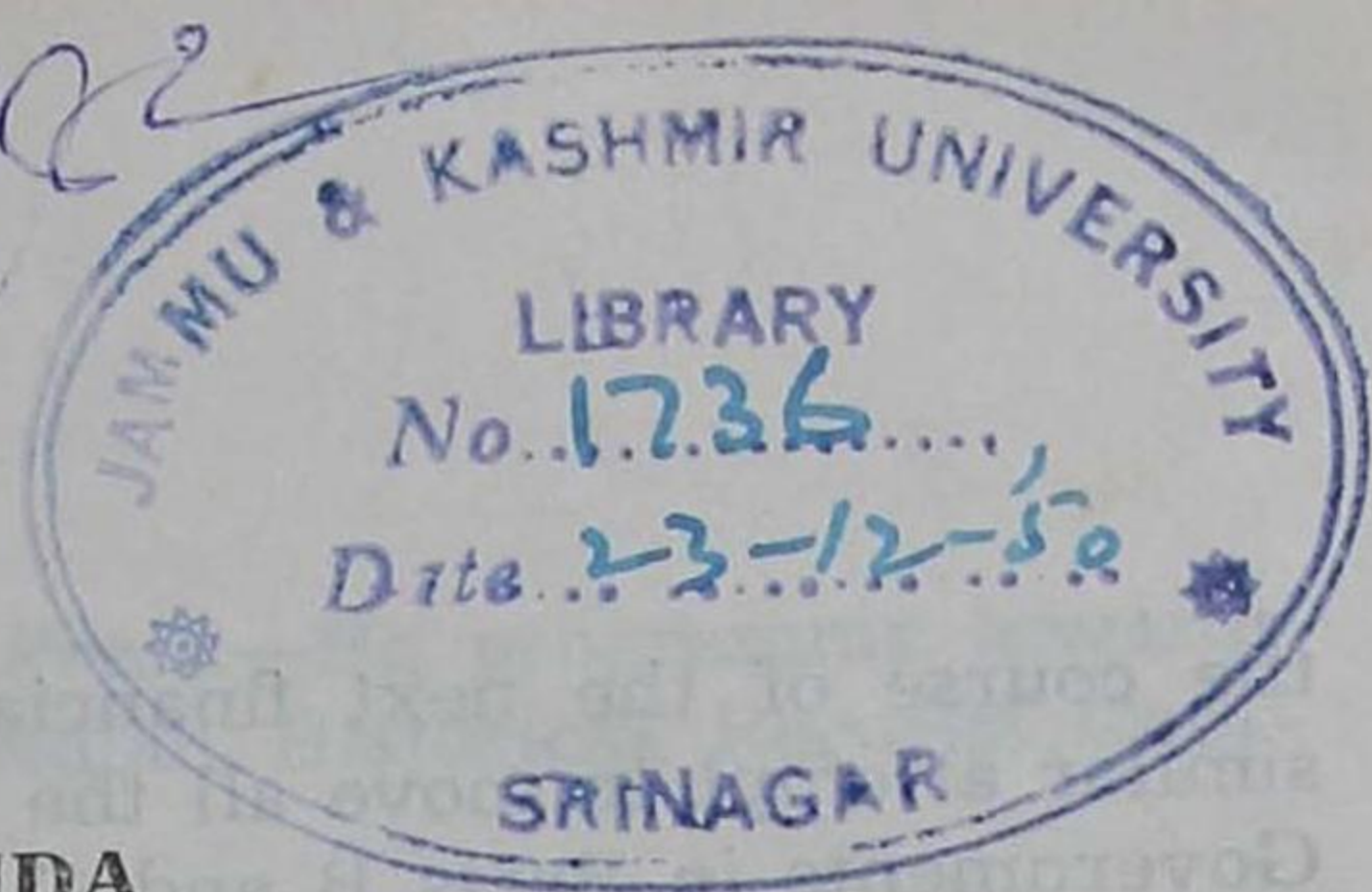
सत्यमेव जयते

*for the Council
of the Commission
of Historical Records &
Monuments
New Delhi*

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AGENDA

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Seventeenth meeting, Nagpur, December, 1950.

- 1. Review of action taken on the resolutions of the sixteenth and some previous meetings of the Research and Publication Committee.**

(Please see conspectus)

- 2. Review of progress made in the Publication Programme.**

A report on the progress made in the Publication Programme of the National Archives of India was placed before the sixteenth meeting of the Research and Publication Committee held in Delhi in July, 1950. Since then Government of India have agreed that three of these volumes may be printed at a private press provided the Government of India presses are not able to print them. The reply from the Controller of Printing is awaited.

In pursuance of Resolution II passed by the Research and Publication Committee at its sixteenth meeting held at New Delhi in July 1950, the Government of India have appointed Dr. R. R. Sethi as an Honorary Editor for Volume III of Scheme I of the Publication Programme of the National Archives of India. The Government have also agreed that the correspondence exchanged between the Chief Editor and Professor D. N. Banerjee in connection with the editing of the above volume, should be placed before the Nagpur meeting of the Research and Publication Committee. These are laid on the table.

- 3. Survey of records.**

A review of the activities of the Regional Records Survey Committees in the States was placed before the fifteenth meeting of the Research and Publication Committee held at Cuttack in December, 1949. In pursuance of the declared policy of the Indian Historical Records Commission, the Government of Bombay have established a Board of Historical Records and Ancient Monuments for the State, with four regional Committees under it for the purpose of survey work. The constitution and the personnel of the Board will be found in Appendix D, Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings Vol. XXVI, Part I. The Government of West Bengal have also decided to set up a permanent Committee of their own, whereas the Governments of Assam and Madhya Pradesh who had already decided to do so, are expected to establish their Committees within

the course of the next financial year. The Commission made a similar attempt to move all the Union Governments and other State Governments in Parts B and C States to set up Survey Committees of their own and so far only Mysore Government have set up a Committee while the Government of PEPSU have agreed to do so. (Please see Conspectus, Resolution VI, 8th meeting, Research and Publication Committee). It is hoped that other State Governments will follow suit.

(i) *Financial Grant*.—A grant of Rs. 6,500 has been received from the Government of India for 1950-51 for aid to the *ad-hoc* Regional Records Survey Committees in Part A States only, and the amount has been disbursed to four *ad-hoc* Committees which have been functioning under the Indian Historical Records Commission. During the year under review all the Committees did very useful survey work and brought to light many valuable historical manuscripts and documents, some of which were purchased by them. All these manuscripts or copies thereof, have been transferred to the National Archives of India for custody. The Delhi Committee has also purchased some valuable manuscripts.

(ii) *Account of expenditure*.—In addition to the instructions given by the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission from time to time in respect of maintaining accounts of the expenditure incurred by the *ad-hoc* Committees, attention of the Conveners is particularly invited to the instructions issued to them for the purchase of manuscripts etc.

(iii) *Purchase of documents*.—It has been found that many of the manuscripts etc. purchased by some of the Committees are of literary or religious character rather than historical. In several cases no descriptive lists had accompanied the manuscripts. The attention of the Committees is drawn to the fact that the primary interest of the survey work is to locate documents and manuscripts of historical interest. Also that without a descriptive list such collections would prove far less useful than they could be otherwise. As regards the manuscripts deposited in the National Archives of India by the Orissa Regional Records Survey Committee, the National Archives of India was able to secure the services without remuneration of Mr. Bimalendu Mishra, an I.A.S. probationer undergoing training in Delhi to whom the thanks of the Committee are due. But since the unearthed manuscripts are in many different languages and dialects, it may not always be possible to get similar assistance, and it is necessary that the Regional Records Survey Committee concerned should furnish the National Archives of India with an inventory of all collections of manuscripts sent in by it.

(iv) *Publicity through Radio and Press.*—No programme towards this end could be initiated by the Indian Historical Records Commission during the year.

(v) *Annual reports.*—The annual reports from various Regional Records Survey Committees have been printed in the Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings Vol. XXVI, Pt. I (Appendix F). During the current year fresh reports have been received from the Committees in West Bengal, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Delhi which are laid on the table.

4. Proposals by Dr. H. L. Gupta.

(i) In view of great importance of Lord Hastings' and Lord Dalhousie's papers on Indian States, it is proposed that necessary arrangements for their selection and publication be made at the earliest.

(ii) Resolved that the Research Room of the National Archives of India be kept open for the researchers from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

(iii) In view of concentration of research on Modern India in the National Archives of India at New Delhi and non-availability of all the printed and published sources in its Library and the consequent difficulty for the researchers in not finding such printed and published sources as they need to consult, it is resolved that the books on modern India needed for research and found in the National Library at Calcutta be transferred to the National Archives' Library as a measure facilitating concentration of research at one central place.

Secretary's Note

(i) *above.*—A long-term Publication Programme for the National Archives of India, recommended by the Research and Publication Committee at its seventh meeting held at Peshawar in 1945 (Resolution V, Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings Vol. XXII, Part III, p. 108) and subsequently endorsed by the Indian Historical Records Commission at the Peshawar Session (Resolution I, Ibid, p. 116) was finally accepted by the Government of India to be given effect to as soon as the present publication programme is fully implemented. Section II of the second publication programme includes publication of records relating to both Lord Hastings (Moir Papers) and Lord Dalhousie (*vide*. Appendix A, Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings Vol. XXII, pp. 2-3). Editing of these will be taken up in due course.

(ii) *above.*—The normal working hours in all the Government of India offices are from 10 a.m. to 5-0 p.m. The implementation of the proposal would therefore mean employment of extra staff for the purpose, which under the existing financial position, will be difficult for the Government of India to accede to.

(iii) above.—The National Archives of India arranges to secure on behalf of the research scholars such books as may be required by them from the National Library on loan, and the Library of the National Archives of India has in its custody catalogues of books in the National Library. It is not practicable that India's National Library should be denuded of all its books on such an important subject. It is undoubtedly desirable that the National Archives of India Library should have all books on Indian history and an attempt is being made in that direction. If more funds are made available to the National Archives of India, this project may be expedited to the advantage of research scholars in the National Archives of India.

5. Any other item.

Secretary's Note

(i) above.—A long-term Publication Programme for the National Archives of India, recommended by the Research and Publication Committee at its seventh meeting held at Peshawar in 1945 (Resolution V, Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings Vol. XXII, Part II, p. 108) and subsequently endorsed by the Indian Historical Records Commission at the Peshawar Session (Resolution I, ibid. p. 110) was finally accepted by the Government of India to be given effect to as soon as the present publication programme is fully implemented. Section II of the second publication programme includes publication of records relating to both Lord Hastings (Monsi Papers) and Lord Dalhousie (Guthrie Appendix A, Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings Vol. XXII, pp. 2-3). Nothing of this will be taken up in one course, A.1, as decided at the first meeting of the Committee. The normal working hours in all the Government of India offices are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The implementation of the proposal would therefore mean employment of extra staff for the purpose which under the existing financial position will be difficult for the Government of India to accede to.

CONSPECTUS OF ACTION TAKEN

RESEARCH & PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Eighth meeting, Delhi, March 1946.

Resolution VI.—Resolved that the Government of India be requested to ask the provincial Governments and Indian States to set up permanent Regional Survey Committees in view of the altered position consequent on the cessation of hostilities.

The Government of India have issued another reminder to all the State Governments who have not established permanent Regional Records Survey Committees of their own. Replies of some of the State Governments are detailed below:—

Government of Mysore have informed that they have appointed a Regional Committee for the State consisting of the following persons:—

The Vice-Chancellor (Chairman)

The Huzur Secretary to the Maharaja of Mysore

The Professor of History, Maharaja's College, Mysore

The Director of Archaeology in Mysore, Mysore

The Registrar, General and Revenue Secretariat, Bangalore

Shri T. S. Singeravelu Mudaliar, President, Mythic Society, Bangalore

Shri Hullur Srinivasa Jois, Chitaldrug

Shri Sivamurthy Sastri, Bangalore

The Superintendent, Oriental Research Institute, Mysore
(Secretary.)

Government of Madhya Pradesh have informed that as a measure of economy, the formation of the permanent Regional Records Survey Committee has been deferred till the financial year 1951-52 and requested that the present *ad hoc* Committee may be continued during the current year also.

Government of West Bengal have informed that they have decided to set up a permanent Regional Records Survey Committee of their own and to meet the expenses thereof. The personnel of the Committee will be communicated as and when settled.

Government of Madhya Bharat have informed that the Secretariat records are being reorganised at present and the mass of old records of the covenanted States lying at various places in Madhya Bharat are being sorted out. The process of sorting and weeding out records of historical and archival value is in progress and they are being transferred to the historical section of the Secretariat records where they are proposed to be catalogued and calendared under the supervision of a technically qualified person. This process is bound to take some time. The Union Government therefore feel that the setting up of the proposed Regional Committee for the survey of historical records at this stage will not serve any useful purpose until the historical material is properly sorted and made worthy of presentation.

Remarks.—The Madhya Bharat Government have been requested by the Government of India to explain clearly the overall position of their proposed “re-arrangement” of records. The Union Government have also been informed that the object of setting up a Survey Committee for manuscript records in private custody is entirely different from organising Government records.

Government of Pepsu have informed that they agree to the proposal of setting up of the permanent Regional Records Survey Committee.

Government of Bombay have informed that the Board for Historical Records and Ancient Monuments created by the State Government deals with the archival and archæological activities in the State and the Board has set up four Regional Committees for bringing to the notice of the Government sites, relics and monuments of archæological importance, old records and manuscripts and suggest ways and means for their preservation and up keep and for bringing them to the notice of the scholarly world.

Remarks.—Government of India have enquired whether the State Government intend to continue to participate in the activities of the Indian Historical Records Commission and the Research and Publication Committee. Reply from the State Government is awaited.

Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that the matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has informed that in view of the prevailing financial stringency the proposal to set up a permanent Regional Records Survey Committee for the State is not likely to materialise till 1951-52.

Tenth meeting, Delhi, March 1947.

Resolution IV.—This Committee views with grave concern the extremely unsatisfactory state in which the bulk of the records and historical manuscripts in India are lying, and the risks of destruction and dispersal to which they are exposed due mainly to the ignorance on the part of the public of their value as evidences for history and is firmly convinced that the major portion of these invaluable treasures will be lost to the nation unless adequate steps are immediately taken for their preservation. The Committee believes that many of these risks can be eliminated by (1) the enactment of a comprehensive public records legislation for the preservation of all records of national value; (2) by the establishment of properly organised and staffed repositories all over the country to house records which still require a suitable shelter, and education of their present custodians and owners in the principles of archives keeping; (3) making provision for technical services (such as repair, photographing, indexing, cataloguing, etc.) in such repositories as may be unable to organise these services for themselves; (4) organisation of research facilities at these repositories for approved students; and (5) establishment of a system of control on the administration of these records by a suitable central organisation. The Committee further believes that as a preliminary step to the above it will be necessary to compile a register containing complete information regarding all records in India whether in public, semi-public, private or institutional custody. It therefore makes the following recommendations:—

- (i) That the Secretary, Research & Publication Committee, be entrusted with the compilation of such a Register, to be called the National Register of records and historical manuscripts, with the help of the Regional Survey Committees in the provinces and the States;
- (ii) that the latter bodies be instructed to concentrate on the work of the compilation of the materials for the register to the exclusion of all other items of work they may have taken up or intend to take up in the near future;
- (iii) that information collected be entered in the proforma approved by this Committee (annexed hereto) a separate form being used for each collection, series, group or 'fonds' of records or historical manuscripts surveyed, that the completed forms be forwarded to the Secretary, Research and Publication Committee for consolidation with similar forms received from elsewhere copies being retained by the Regional Committees in the form of a Register for a reference purpose, with up-to-date indexes, duplicates of which should be furnished to the Secre-

tary of the Committee, and that the Registers whether at the Centre or in the provinces be made available to accredited scholars;

- (iv) that the provincial Governments and the States and through them the authorities of the Divisions, Districts, Sub-divisions, Circles and other administrative units, High Courts and other Courts, Corporations, Municipalities, District and Local Boards, Trusts, Councils and similar organisations set up by the provincial or State Governments or under their auspices, learned societies, Universities, educational institutions, religious establishments, libraries, museums and all public and semi-public institutions situated within the territorial limits of the provinces and the States, be asked to co-operate fully with the Regional Committees in compiling the Register by extending to them financial help and according them unrestricted facilities for inspection of the records under their control;
- (v) the Regional Survey Committees be further asked to exclude from their immediate programme the contents of the Organised Records Offices and concentrate on such records in semi-public, institutional and private custody and such public records as are yet to be organised;
- (vi) that the provincial Governments and the States having organised record offices of their own be asked to furnish the requisite information in respect of their collections direct to the Secretary, Research and Publication Committee, in the approved form copies being sent to the Regional Survey Committees functioning in the provinces or the States as the case may be;
- (vii) that the Government of India afford such financial and other facilities to the Secretary, Research and Publication Committee (in printing instruction sheets, relevant proformas and any other matter) that may be considered to be necessary in connection with the compilation of the Register;
- (viii) that to accord this scheme the widest possible publicity the resolution be published in the Gazette of India, that the Press Information Bureau be asked to issue a press note on the subject for publication in leading newspapers and periodicals and that All-India Radio be asked to arrange for a series of educational talks explaining the implications of the project. The Committee hereby

authorises its Secretary to issue directives for the guidance of the Regional Survey Committees and to ask for annual reports of the work done in this connection.

Please see the remarks of the Government of India against Resolution II of the twenty-sixth session of the Indian Historical Records Commission.

Government of Madras have informed that the State Government consider that no official records below the Government level are likely, normally, to have an All-India value for research students and that records in offices below that level will generally have only local or ephemeral interest. If they should attract research of a topical variety, the only course needed will be to make them accessible under suitable conditions. These remarks apply with even more force to the offices of the hundreds of local bodies which are also included in the proposal. It would be an inexcusable waste of time and energy to endeavour to compile a Register of all-India in which the records of these small local bodies and of the subordinate Government offices all over India should be listed up. The **Regional Records Survey Committee** has been set up with the idea of having valuable records in private custody traced and provision for their preservation made. It is not desirable that the Committee should be diverted from this work. The Madras Regional Survey Committee has accordingly decided that it should not take up the work of compilation of the proposed National Register. The State Government therefore consider that no action is necessary in the matter.

Resolution VIII.—This Committee further recommends that the provincial and States Governments be requested to give on the basis of the recommendations of the Regional Survey Committees in their areas, free transcripts of records in their custody to those who may help the Survey Committees in their quest for historical records, if such transcripts are wanted for local or family history.

West Bengal Government have informed that the State Government propose to take up the matter in consultation with the permanent Regional Records Survey Committee that would be appointed shortly.

Eleventh meeting, Jaipur, February 1948.

Resolution II.—This Committee recommends that the Government of India make suitable provision for special types of printing and take such prompt measures as are required in connection with the Five-year Publication Programme of the National Archives of India. Meanwhile the Secretary may be authorised to get the completed works printed through some private presses.

The Government of India have informed that they do not consider it advisable to allow any general and un-restricted powers to the Director of Archives to get the National Archives of India printing work done through private presses of his choice and have suggested that arrangements for the printing of each publication which the National Archives of India desired to get printed otherwise than through the Government agency, should be referred to the Government of India individually for their administrative and financial sanction.

Remarks.—The question of printing under the Publication Programme of the National Archives of India was again referred to the Research & Publication Committee at its 16th meeting held at New Delhi in July 1950. The Resolution (I) passed by the Committee has been forwarded to the Government of India for necessary action.

Resolution XIII.—That pre-1902 confidential records, Central and provincial, both military and civil, be thrown open to bonafide students of Indian history under such conditions as the respective Governments may consider necessary.

Government of Madhya Pradesh have informed that while the State Government will be prepared generally to throw open records fifty or more years old to bonafide research students, it is not practicable at this moment to set up a separate Record Office.

Government of Travancore and Cochin have forwarded a copy of the rules regulating access to bonafide research students to Government Central Records Office, Trivandrum.

Twelfth meeting, New Delhi, July 1948.

Resolution III.—This Committee recommends that all the non-current District, Divisional and Sub-Divisional records should be centralised at the provincial headquarters under a unified control directly under the provincial governments for better preservation and historical research. It is further recommended that an annual report on the progress achieved in this respect may be submitted to the Indian Historical Records Commission, for information.

The Government of India have issued a reminder to all the State Governments, except Delhi and the replies received from some of them are noted below:—

Chief Commissioner, Himachal Pradesh, has informed that the administration has accepted the resolution and steps are being taken to implement it. An annual report of the efforts and progress made by stages in this direction will be furnished to the Indian Historical Records Commission. So far the Secretariat has received some of the old files of Mandi District.

Chief Commissioner, Bilaspur, has informed that no records or data prior to 1901 existed in the State as none was received from the late State Government. The question of throwing open these records therefore does not arise.

Remarks.—The Chief Commissioner has been informed by the Government of India that the object of the resolution is not to throw open records for research but to bring all the non-current District and Divisional records of the State under a unified central control. It has also been pointed out that post-1900 records which may be scattered in the district and sub-divisional headquarters of the Bilaspur Administration, will constitute the 'non-current' records of the local administration.

Government of Madras have stated that they have already concentrated all their district records up to 1857 in their Central Record Office. With regard to records pertaining to the period subsequent to 1857, the question of such centralised control can be considered only after the Central Record Office is shifted back to Madras (since shifted) and even then, only after suitable accommodation is made available for the purpose. The State Government therefore presumed that no report would be called for in the matter until the centralisation of post-1857 records materialises.

Remarks.—In reply to an enquiry made by the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission, the Government of Madras have informed that they have no objection in sending an annual report on the progress made by them in the matter in January every year.

Chief Commissioner, Coorg, has stated that all the records of his administration since 1834 are maintained at Mercara. Prior to July 1940, these records were at Bangalore when the Resident in Mysore was also the Chief Commissioner of Coorg. With the separation of the functions the records were brought back from Bangalore to Mercara and were concentrated in his record room which could be called the State Central Record Office for Coorg, the holdings of which also included the publications issued and received by the Chief Commissioner and other available historical records of Coorg. The record room of the former Commissioner which was called the Central Record Office, prior to July 1940, contain all the records of the former Commissioner as well as those of the Assistant Commissioner and is now under the control of the Assistant Commissioner. In this record room all the records of the *talug* offices and *nad* offices (revenue sub-division offices), which are more than three years old are retained. The Forest, Police, Education and P. W. Departments and the local bodies *viz.* the District Board, Municipalities, Notified Areas and Village Panchayats maintain their own records and they are not sent to the Central Record Room of the Assistant Commissioner of Coorg. The records of the District and

Sessions Judge, Munsiffs and Courts of the Bench of the Magistrates are kept in their offices and are destroyed when they are ripe for destruction according to rules after a notification being issued to the effect. There is no separate record department in Coorg under the control of a separate Gazetted Officer. The heads of the Departments of all the offices are responsible for proper preservation of their records. They also review the records periodically for sorting out documents to be preserved as important, or to be destroyed as valueless, according to an approved principle.

The administration therefore consider that there is no necessity to take any action on the resolution and that the submission of annual progress reports in this respect is also not necessary.

Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, has informed that all the old records of the Administration were destroyed by the Japanese during their occupation of the islands. The current records of any importance are all kept at Port Blair and therefore no action is proposed to be taken by the Administration on the subject. (Please also see Conspectus, Resolution II of the thirteenth meeting, Research and Publication Committee).

Remarks.—An enquiry about the whereabouts of the records is being pursued in diplomatic level.

Government of West Bengal have informed that it has been decided by the State Government in consultation with the local officers that the district records in West Bengal up to 1858 should be treated as non-current and centralised for the purpose of better preservation and historical research. Further action in the matter is under consideration of the State Government.

Remarks.—A copy of the State Government's letter has been forwarded to Dr. N. K. Sinha for information.

Government of Rajasthan have informed that a Committee has since been appointed to examine the questions relating to the formation of State and Divisional Record Offices for the safe custody, preservation and scientific treatment of ancient and historical records on the lines of the National Archives of India; availability of these records to the research scholars; and laying down a procedure for the acquisition of closed records of Government departments by the record offices and by Government Departments from the record offices for purposes of reference. Necessary action regarding unified control will therefore be taken on receipt of the report of the Committee.

Government of Madhya Bharat have informed that they have adopted the system of decentralisation of records according to which all administrative papers, both current and non-current, would now remain in the direct custody of the Departments and offices to whom they relate. The papers of Departmental character emanating from different covenanting States are, therefore, being sorted and listed

according to their relevance and context for ultimate transfer to the direct control and management of Heads of Departments concerned. The Chief Inspector of Offices and Records will, however, assist the Heads of the Departments to build up their records and will inspect them from time to time so as to have a unified control over them. The Secretariat or Ministerial records of the covenanting States are being sorted and listed for being transferred to Departments concerned or arranged and preserved in the Central Records Department on a statewise and yearwise basis, the latter also being charged with the duty to take over of such current records as may be of historical interest. It is hoped that the records preserved in the Central Record Department will give at one place in a convenient form all that is of historical and archival value.

Remarks.—Please see Secretary's remarks against the reply of the Madhya Bharat Government on Resolution VI of the eighth meeting of the Research & Publication Committee. The Union Government have been again asked to clarify the position regarding re-arrangement of their records.

Thirteenth meeting, Delhi, December 1948.

Resolution I.—This Committee requests scholars, archivists and others engaged in research among archives to bring to the notice of the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission, interesting and new subjects which they come across in the course of their researches and upon which they find sufficient materials among the archives, in order that a list of such subjects may be published in the annual Proceedings Volumes of the Indian Historical Records Commission for helping research students in the selection of suitable subjects for their theses.

Government of Travancore and Cochin have informed that a press-note has been published in the matter for information of all concerned.

Government of Vindhya Pradesh have informed that the resolution has been brought to the notice of the Department of Vindhya Historical Records Commission for future guidance and any interesting and new subject which they will come across in the course of their activities will be duly communicated to the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission.

Chief Commissioner, Ajmer has informed that the scholars and archivists etc. engaged in research among records in the State have been instructed to follow the principle underlying the resolution. The State has however no archives department and it is not therefore possible to undertake any important research work in the branch locally.

Resolution II.—That early and suitable steps be taken by the Indian Historical Records Commission for publication of original texts or translations of comparatively important historical manuscripts and documents discovered by the respective Regional Records Survey Committees.

Please see the remarks of the Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands on pages 42-43, Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings Volume XXVI, Part I. In reply to a further enquiry made by the Government of India regarding the authority, places and the manner in which the old records were known to have been last kept and to the periods to which they related, the Chief Commissioner, has sent the following information:—

- (i) Each Head of Department held direct charge of his office records, and the records last existed in his office; (ii) these records were generally kept in wooden almirahs and racks. In fact no records or their containers were recovered on re-occupation; (iii) it is not possible to say anything definite about the period to which the records related as certain old records are understood to have been weeded out at certain intervals before the war; and (iv) most of the important records of those days were kept in the Chief Commissioner's office located on Ross Island (Port Blair) and a portion of the records of that Office was removed to the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Port Blair in February 1942.

(Please also see remarks of the Chief Commissioner, Andaman against Resolution III of the 12th meeting of the Research & Publication Committee).

Fourteenth meeting, New Delhi, May 1949.

Resolution III.—This Committee reiterates its previous recommendations and requests the provincial governments to expedite the establishment of organised records offices in their respective provinces if they have not already done so.

Chief Commissioner, Delhi has informed that the Indian Historical Records Commission may take up the question of inspecting the records of the administration with a view to determining as to which of the records are of historical value. So far as the question of establishing a separate Records Office for the State is concerned, the Chief Commissioner, is of opinion, that Delhi being a small State it is very doubtful whether a separate record office will be necessary for it.

Government of Assam have informed that the records of the Khasi States have been kept intact under the control of the Government of Assam.

Government of West Bengal have informed that necessary steps have been taken to ensure that no State records of Cooch Behar are allowed to be dispersed, divided or destroyed.

Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that since the Banaras State has merged with the Uttar Pradesh, the Keeper of Records of the State will in due course make a survey of the records of the defunct State along with the public records of Banaras District and arrange the removal of important records, if any, to the Central Records Office to be established at Allahabad.

In reply to the instructions given by the Government of India, the Government of Uttar Pradesh have further informed that the Banaras State authorities first denied existence of any historical records of the State. The Keeper of Records, however, on a survey has traced out 18 volumes of records, which will be scrutinised first by the Maharaja of Banaras so as to retain papers apertaining to private affairs of the Maharaja and his ancestors before their removal to the Central Records Office at Allahabad. The series of these 18 volumes have been found thoroughly broken and many of the volumes incomplete. In the circumstances, the Uttar Pradesh Government do not feel it worthwhile to make local arrangements for housing and preservation of these volumes. Separate entity of these volumes will however be maintained if the records in question are transferred to Allahabad.

Chief Commissioner, Vindhya Pradesh has informed that the Vindhya Historical Records Commission in the Pradesh is being reorganised. The Government Record Offices are being run under the rules of the State Government. The implementation of the resolution of the Indian Historical Records Commission is being considered.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir have informed that a proposal to set up a National Academy in the State is under consideration of the Government and it is hoped that this organisation would set up a Historical Records Office in due course.

Remarks.—The State Government have been informed that setting up of the Records Office is not the function of an Academy, but it is the duty of the Government. They have also been informed that a "General Record Department" already existed, which should be declared by the State Government as their Central Record Office. Reply awaited.

Chief Commissioner, Kutch has informed that there were no historical records of the nature mentioned in the resolution in the palace records.

Remarks.—The Chief Commissioner has been informed that as the State came into existence in the 15th century, it must have accumulated a mass of official papers in the course of its administration and that these papers were records of historical importance. The reply received from the Chief Commissioner is summarised below:

The records of the Kutch State prior to the date of transfer of power have neither been fully listed nor weeded out. (A list of some of the records has been forwarded). There are nearly 2½ lakhs of records of files to be examined, weeded, noted, and arranged. They pertain to a period of about 150 years and must be containing some papers of historical importance. The records relating to settlement of lands etc., in Kutch have to be systematically examined and preserved or destroyed, for which the Administration has asked from the Government of India sanction for a small staff. (A copy of the rules framed by the Chief Commissioner for weeding of records has been sent).

Government of Bombay have informed that the State Government have already established an organised Records Office.

Government of Hyderabad have informed that the State have their own well-organised Record Office, known as, Daftar-e-Diwani Mal and Mulki, with which 13 Daftars are amalgamated and its papers date back to Shahjahan's period and to the Asaf Jahi period from Asaf Jah I to the modern times. Such historical papers as are in private possession have already been taken in direct custody of the State Government and the Daftar has in a way become a Central Record Office for these old records as well as current records.

Resolution IV.—Resolved that the Government of India be urged to take suitable steps immediately for the safe custody and proper preservation of records lately in possession of the various Indian States. The Director of National Archives may be given all necessary facilities for this purpose and be requested to submit his report to the Indian Historical Records Commission at an early date.

Government of Punjab have informed that suitable steps will be taken for the safe custody and proper preservation of the materials, if any, found in the records of the States of Laharu, Pataudi and Dujana which have been merged with the Punjab.

Chief Commissioner, Bhopal has informed that Government records are safely preserved at the Central Records Office.

Travancore and Cochin Government have informed that both Travancore and Cochin have organised Records Offices and their records are properly preserved and taken care of by the Union Government.

Chief Commissioner, Cooch Behar (late) informed that the Records Office of the old regime were being maintained in tact under the new administration.

Government of Madras have informed that they have already taken steps on the subject, and that there is no danger of the records in question being dispersed, damaged or lost.

Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that the Keeper of the Records of the State Government have been instructed to inspect the records which were lately in the possession of Tehri-Garhwal and Banaras States and to ensure in consultation with the local authorities their preservation and safe custody. The report of the Keeper of Records when received will be sent to the Commission.

(Please see the remarks of the Uttar Pradesh Government against Resolution III of the Research & Publication Committee of the same meeting).

Government of Saurashtra have informed that the Union Government contemplate to set up an organisation which will look after the safe custody and preservation of records of the various covenanted States. The decision when finalised will be intimated later.

Government of Orissa have informed that steps were being taken for safe custody and preservation of records lately in the possession of the States merged with Orissa. A Research Section has been established for the purpose. In the meantime necessary steps have been taken to preserve separately the historical records of the Cuttack Collectorate up to 1858. After the Central Records Office is opened, the old records in all the District Offices in the State and in the Revenue Commissioner's Office will be removed to the Records Office for their preservation. Until then the Curator, Orissa National Archives, will supervise from time to time these records and take necessary steps for their preservation.

Chief Commissioner, Bilaspur, has informed that no historical records have been passed on to the administration by the late State Government and there is none in its custody.

Government of Hyderabad have informed that they have taken immediate steps for the safe custody of records lately in the possession of various jagirdars and Samasthanams subsequent to the abolition of Jagirs. All the Assistant Jagir Administrators are instructed to take possession of all such records from the Jagirdars and transfer them to the Daftar-e-Diwani.

Government of Madhya Bharat have informed that the Union Government was taking steps to transfer the archival papers in the various covenanted States to the Secretariat Central Records Room where they will be calendared by a duly qualified person. The Union Government do not therefore find it necessary to set up interim repositories or to seek the assistance of the National Archives of India in the matter.

(Please see Secretary's remarks against Resolution VI of the 8th meeting of the Research and Publication Committee).

Government of Rajasthan have informed that the principal covenanted States, e.g., Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur were maintaining organised Record Offices and had taken good care to keep their records, ancient and historical, as well as current, in a state of safety and good preservation. The Union Government have also appointed a Committee of scholars to examine the question and make recommendations regarding the establishment of Central and Divisional Record Offices to ensure proper preservation and safety of records, their reorganisation and scientific preservation. The Committee have also been asked to suggest how best these records could be made available for research purposes.

The Union Government have also requested the Government of India to arrange for training in the National Archives of India an officer of the State in Archive administration and preservation of records, who after his training will be entrusted with the work of organising the Central and Divisional Record Offices on an all-India basis. The Rajasthan Government will always welcome suggestions from the Director of the National Archives of India in this behalf and will also have no objection to the Record Offices being inspected by him periodically.

Remarks.—The Rajasthan Government have been informed by the Government of India that the Indian Historical Records Commission would be greatly interested in seeing the report of the Committee of scholars appointed by the Union Government and its recommendations. The National Archives of India would also welcome an officer of the Rajasthan Government for rendering such help as would be required by him to learn the technique of archive administration.

Fifteenth meeting, Cuttack, December 1949.

Resolution I.—While agreeing with the Madras Government that the Tanjore Raj records could not be placed under the care and custody of a private library, this Committee recommends that the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission; Professor D. V. Potdar; Convener, Madras Regional Records Survey Committee; and Dr. P. M. Joshi (if deputed by the Government of Bombay)

should inspect the records with a view to suggesting a suitable place for their location and steps to be taken for their preservation and utilization.

The *Government of India* have decided to set up a Committee with the personnel as recommended by the Committee to inspect the Tanjore Raj Records and other Central Government records kept at present in the custody of the Government of Madras with a view to make recommendations to them for the proper preservation and location of those records.

The Committee has inspected the records in November 1950. The inspection report of the Committee will be submitted directly to the Government of India.

Proposal of Dr. N. K. Sinha for sending reminders to States Governments in regard to submission by the various States of progress reports in regard to results achieved in the direction of exercising unified control over records (non-current district, divisional and sub-divisional records).

The *Government of India* have issued reminders to the States Governments concerned for the submission of progress reports to this effect. (Please see Conspectus, Resolution III of the 12th meeting).

Resolution II.—This Committee again draws the attention of the Government of India to its previous resolutions (Resolution VII of the Nineteenth Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission and Resolution IV of the Ninth meeting and Resolution IV(1) of the Tenth meeting of the Research & Publication Committee) and urges early action in the matter.

The *Government of India* are considering the question of placing before the next session of Parliament a Draft Bill prepared by the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission.

Resolution III.—This Committee urges on all the Regional Records Survey Committees which have not submitted their accounts to do so without any further delay.

The Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission, has forwarded the resolution to all the Conveners of the Regional Records Survey Committees for necessary action. Irregularities in submission of accounts of expenditure still continues.

Resolution IV.—Resolved that the Government of India be requested to ask the provincial Governments and States Unions to take immediate steps properly to house and preserve the records of the defunct States within their respective jurisdiction, and to arrange their archives on proper lines so as to make them useful for research purposes, and to throw them open to scholars.

The *Government of India* have forwarded the recommendation of the Committee together with the observation of the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission, to the covenanting States and Unions of States for necessary action.

The *Pepsu Government* have informed that they are taking necessary steps for properly housing and preserving all records of the covenanting States comprising Pepsu and for arranging their archives on proper lines.

The *Government of Orissa* have informed that they are taking necessary steps for proper housing and preservation of all records of historical interests of the *ex-States* in Orissa.

The *Government of Madhya Bharat* have informed that they are taking necessary steps to transfer the archival papers in the various covenanted States to the Secretariat Central Record Room where they will be calendared by a duly qualified person. They did not therefore find it necessary to set up interim repositories or to seek the assistance of the National Archives of India in this respect.

The question of throwing open records of the various covenanting States for research scholars would be considered as soon as the process of collecting, collating, cataloguing and calendaring old records were completed or were at least in a fairly advanced stage of completion.

Replies from others are awaited.

Remarks.—Please see remarks against Resolution VI of the Eighth meeting of the Research and Publication Committee.

AGENDA

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

Twenty-seventh Session, Nagpur, December, 1950.

1. Review of the action taken on resolutions passed at the twenty-sixth and some previous sessions of the Commission.

(Please see Conspectus)

2. Recommendations, if any, of the Research & Publication Committee of the Nagpur Session.

3. Review of the progress made on the Development Scheme.

A report was placed before the 26th session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Cuttack in December, 1949. A further report is submitted below.

The principal recommendations are:—

(i) Microfilm copies of all unpublished records relating to modern Indian history not available in this country should be obtained and preserved in the Imperial Record Department.

(ii) All necessary steps should be taken for salvaging privately owned manuscripts in India. The central and provincial record offices should be legally authorised to take charge of such manuscripts when their respective owners are willing to transfer their custody on such terms as may be mutually agreed upon. Such owners as may be prepared to provide for the better preservation of their manuscripts should be given such technical advice and service as they may require.

(iii) Unwarranted destruction and export of historical manuscripts should be legally prohibited.

(iv) Microphotographic copies of all rare publications on India not available in this country should be obtained irrespective of the period they deal with and placed in the custody of the Imperial Record Department.

(v) All *bona fide* students should have access to these copies.

- (vi) The Imperial Record Department should supply at a reasonable price copies made out of the microfilms mentioned above to Universities, learned societies, public libraries and such persons as may apply for them.
- (vii) Early steps should be taken to air-condition the muniment rooms of the Imperial Record Department with a view to securing uniformity of temperature and relative humidity.
- (viii) Vacuum fumigatorium and laminating machines should be installed in the Imperial Record Department at an early date.
- (ix) Imparting instructions in theory and practice of archives-keeping should be recognised as one of the normal duties of the Imperial Record Department.
- (x) Publication programme.
- (xi) Building and Shelves.
- (xii) Storage Equipment (for records).
- (xiii) Accession of records of Government of India not transferred.
- (xiv) Map Room.
- (xv) Survey and listing of National Archives of India records.

(i) and (iv) above.—The project for building up a library of microfilm copies of records and historical manuscripts of Indian interest available in foreign countries showed good progress during 1949-50. On receipt of expenditure sanction for Rs. 50,000 for this purpose, in October 1949, orders were placed for copies of documents belonging to both official and non-official repositories in the United Kingdom, France, Norway and the United States of America. As the financial sanction was received late in the year, it was not possible to make use of the entire amount provided for the implementation of the scheme. Before the expiry of the financial year microfilms worth Rs. 14,500 only were received. The largest number of them came from the British Museum (60 rolls) where the microcopying was done on behalf of the National Archives of India by the Recordak Division of Kodak Ltd. of London. These microfilms include copies of private papers of several of British statesmen and military officers who served in India during the 18th and 19th centuries. The Manuscripts relating to Indian history in Bodleian Library (Oxford) were all microcopied at the University Press of Oxford. The other British depositories wherefrom copies of documents were obtained, include National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh; H. M. Register House, Edinburgh.

and Guildhall Library, London. Arrangements could not be made for the making of microfilm copies in any of the French repositories before March 1950 but a descriptive list of manuscripts of Indian interest in the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris, was obtained through the courtesy of The Embassy of India in Paris. The Riksarkivet of Oslo (Norway) sent microcopies (5 rolls) of all the documents of Indian interest in their possession, a large part of them relate to Peter Anker, the Danish Governor of Tranquebar during the latter half of the 18th century. Cleveland Public Library (Cleveland, Ohio) is in possession of the largest number of documents of Indian interest in the United States of America and copies of all these were acquired. The Manuscripts in the custody of the Library of Congress and Harvard University Library (Cambridge, Mass.) were also micro-filmed for the National Archives of India. The total number of rolls obtained during 1949-50 amounted to 159.

For the year 1950-51 the Government of India have sanctioned expenditure not exceeding Rs. 35,500 for the implementation of the project. At present Recordak Division is carrying the copying of the manuscripts in the British Museum, which could not be micro-filmed last year and it is hoped that the entire collection of manuscripts of Indian interest available there will be microcopied before March 1951. John Rylands Library of Manchester has also a large collection of manuscripts relating to modern Indian history and arrangements for their copying have been made. Information has been received from Paris that manuscripts in the Bibliotheque Nationale and the *Dupleix Papers* in the Archives of the Department of Seine-et-Oise are being microfilmed on behalf of the National Archives of India. Professor Holden Furber of the University of Pennsylvania has in his possession some of the important *Melville Papers* relating to India and these have been microfilmed at Harvard University for the National Archives of India. It is also expected that copying of the records of the Dutch East India Company available at the Algemeen Rijksarchief (The Hague) will shortly begin as arrangements for making advance payment have been made through the Indian Embassy at The Hague. The microfilming of the Danish records is not being taken up this year because of the non-availability of detailed information regarding them. Also see item (ii) (f) below.

(ii) *above*.—(a) The Government of India have made a grant of Rs. 6,500 to the *ad hoc* Regional Records Survey Committees in Part A States for the year 1950-51. The Bombay Government having established a Board of Historical Records and Ancient Monuments for the State and the Madras Government a permanent Survey Committee of their own the government grant has not been disbursed to them. The Governments of West Bengal and Bihar have also decided

to set up a permanent Committee for the States and the expenses incurred by the *ad hoc* Committee prior to the establishment of the permanent Committee, will be met from the Government of India grant. The balance will be re-allocated to the remaining Committees. All the Survey Committees have unearthed valuable manuscripts in the course of their survey work and the documents etc. purchased by them from private owners, have been transferred to the National Archives of India for custody.

(b) The Government of India have suggested that the proposal for the compilation of a 'National Register of Records, Manuscripts, etc.' be again placed before the Nagpur Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission. (Please see conspectus). This has been included in the agenda.

(c) A sum of Rs. 5,000 was received from the Government of India for 1949-50, which was expended in the purchase of 7 manuscript books and 10 specimens of calligraphy.

(d) The Government grant of Rs. 5,000 for tendering technical services to institutions and private persons is being fully utilised.

(e) *Books*.—Owing to the paucity of funds no further substantial book collection on Indian History could be made for the National Archives of India Library.

(f) *Parliamentary Papers*.—A sum of Rs. 5,000 has been provided in the budget estimates for the year 1950-51 to acquire the collection of Parliamentary Papers on India, or their microfilm copies from H. M. Stationery Office, London, which has agreed to undertake their microfilming.

(g) *Subvention to Societies*.—No grants under the head have been made by the Government of India.

(iii) *above*.—Please see Resolution VIII of the 26th session of the Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC Procs. Vol. XXVI. Part I). It has been decided that the first step in this direction is a legislation declaring certain categories of record being of national importance. A draft bill has been prepared for this purpose, which, if made into law, would authorize the Indian Parliament to legislate on them. The bill is under the Government's consideration.

(v) and (vi) *above*.—The microfilm copies of material relating to India from abroad are open for research.

(vii) and (xi) *above*.—The scheme for the extension of the Records Building and air-conditioning of the muniment rooms has been approved both by the Standing Committee of Legislature on Education and the Standing Finance Committee in principle. But in

accordance with a decision of the Cabinet to go slow with the development scheme of the National Archives of India, it has been decided to construct only a wing instead of a whole new building. The proposal has been approved by the last Standing Committee of Parliament on Education. An estimate of Rs. 41,03,450 for the proposed new wing to the National Archives of India and air conditioning of the muniment rooms, received from the Central Public Works Department has been transmitted for approval to the Standing Finance Committee through the Ministry of Education. Extreme urgency of undertaking this work has been emphasised. Last year the Government sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,25,000 for providing adjustable cantilever shelves in the stack areas in the National Archives of India. Installation of adjustable shelves have been completed in part of the stack areas and the work of installation in the remaining parts is in progress.

(viii) *above*.—The installation of the fumigatorium has been completed, but the working of the plant has been held up due to minor constructional defects and for want of permission from the Chief Inspector of Explosives for using the ethylene oxide (fumigant) cylinders. The defects are being rectified, and that done vacuum fumigation will be done with alternative fumigants for the time being.

The installation of the laminating press has also been completed but the working of the press has been held up due to insufficient supply of steam to heat the platens to required temperature under the required pressure. Steps are being taken to remove this deficiency.

(ix) *above*.—The Government of India sanctioned for 1950-51 two stipends of Rs. 100 each per month to deserving candidates in training in Archives Keeping in the National Archives of India. There being no deserving candidate, no stipend was awarded. Also see Item 5.

(x) *above*.—Please see report in the agenda of the Research and Publication Committee.

Honorarium to Editors.—A sum of Rs. 7,500 has been asked for from the Government of India as honorarium for editors who complete their work during the financial year. The sanction has not so far been received, nor has any Editor so far this year submitted his completed work.

(xii) *above*.—The Government of India have made a grant for 1950-51 of Rs. 20,000 for the purchase of carton boxes for storing records. A similar grant of Rs. 14,000 was also received last year. 460 boxes were acquired last year; more are being made currently.

(xiii) *above*.—During the first ten months of 1950, 2,732 bundles, 4,259 volumes and 19 boxes of records were transferred to the National Archives of India by some of the Ministries of the Government of India and some of the defunct Residencies, the largest bulk being from the Ministry of States which has decided upon the transfer of the pre-1931 records of the late Foreign and Political Department records to the custody of the National Archives of India. No appreciable progress has been made in acquiring non-current records of Government of India agencies which have so far transferred such records to the National Archives of India due to (1) lack of space in the National Archives of India and (2) general reluctance of the agencies to transfer their records to the National Archives of India.

(xiv) *above*.—The question of establishing a Map Room in the National Archives of India has been taken up along with the question of extension of the National Archives of India building.

(xv) *above*.—In continuation of the work begun last year, the listing of the Survey of India records is being carried on, but it will take some years to complete this series owing to the large volume of the records involved. The preparation of the descriptive list of the Survey of India records (Geodetic Branch), May 1865—December 1873, for which there was no list whatsoever, has been completed up to August 1873. Of the Residency series, the listing of the Mysore records has been completed, and work on the pre-mutiny records of the late Central India Agency, Indore, has been begun. Detailed lists of papers were also prepared for the Central Board of Revenue (1923—35) and Legislative (1861—1913) groups of records, which were originally transferred to the National Archives of India without such lists.

4. National Register of Records

At its tenth meeting held in March 1947, the Research and Publication Committee adopted a resolution (Resolution IV in 8 parts) regarding preparation of a National Register of records in Government, semi-public and private custody, which was circulated to all the State Governments. Only three definite answers supporting the move were received from the former Travancore and Manipur Darbars and Orissa Government (please see pp. 35-36, IHRC Procs. Volume XXVI, part I). Subsequently a reply came from Madras Government conveying their unwillingness to support the proposal (please see Conspectus, p. 9). The Government of India had meanwhile considered the proposal very carefully and were willing to offer limited financial assistance for the execution of the scheme. The grant could be utilised only if there were proper machinery in the regional areas. The only existing organisation through which the scheme could be hoped to be worked were the permanent and *ad hoc*

Survey Committees. Taking, however, Madras Government's attitude and the silence of other State Governments in the matter and the Government of India's present inability to shoulder the entire financial liability, it was decided to place this question again before the Indian Historical Records Commission (please see Conspectus p. 33).

East Punjab, Madras, Mysore and Travancore-Cochin have set up permanent Committees and Bombay a Board, while West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Pepsu and Delhi are likely to do so soon. Answers from the remaining States are awaited. The Survey Committees include nominees of State Governments, Universities, learned institutions and private individuals and in their representative character, these organisations are the most suitable machinery capable of undertaking the job in view. It has been accepted on all hands that the task of preparation of National Register of Records and Manuscripts is of national importance. In view of the general lukewarmness of the State Governments towards the proposal, the only other alternative seems to be the Central Government to take it up as regular item of work. It would have to be started on a modest scale owing to the lack of personal experience in this type of work and the present financial position of the country. It is therefore proposed for consideration that—

- (i) the work be taken up by the Government of India on a limited scale and executed through a Registrar and an Assistant Registrar with a small staff specially appointed for this purpose;
- (ii) the Registrar and his staff make an experimental survey in the State of Delhi and East Punjab for a period of 3 years;
- (iii) their work be reviewed after three years and if found successful, their activities be extended to other regions of India.

5 Diploma Course in Archives Keeping *vis-a-vis* employment.

In fulfilment of the terms of conditions as contained in the 1941-constitution of the Indian Historical Records Commission, the Government of India have arranged for a Diploma Course in Archives Keeping in the National Archives of India. Since 1942 as many as 60 students, University teachers and Government officials have been trained and appropriate certificate or Diploma issued to them. In recognition of the demand, the Government of India had sanctioned two stipends of a value of Rs. 100 per month since 1948. Demand for more stipends were placed before the Government but owing to financial reasons these could not be sanctioned.

The training scheme has received wide approbation both in India and abroad (for remarks of foreign experts please see pages 174-75, IHRC Procs. Vol. XXIV). The Report on the Post-War development plan recommended that the existing training arrangement should be gradually developed into a regular school. The Standing Committee of Indian Legislature was keenly interested in the scheme and recommended to the Government of India that "it was hoped that requisite financial assistance would be forthcoming to encourage students to take up this training in larger numbers".

Of late there has, however, been a tendency among the members of the public to doubt the validity of such a training and numerous enquiries have been received regarding prospects, pay, etc., and also if the Government undertake to provide employment to the trained personnel. In the absence, however, of any such clear cut policy there has been a loss of confidence in the training scheme.

There is ground for such loss of confidence and it may be incidentally stated that in 1821 a Training School, *Ecole des Chartes*, was started in France. The course extended to 3 years and besides archivism, it included Librarianship. After a lapse of time the training scheme did not prove to be a success as the Diploma holders could not find employment. Considering the situation, the French Government issued orders (1850) that all positions of the archivists should be filled up by people who held diploma of Archivist Paleographer of the *Ecole des Chartes*. It will not be out of place to cite here the opinion of Mr. R. L. Atkinson, Secretary, Historical Manuscripts Commission. Mr. Atkinson with his long experience reviewed our training scheme thus:—"The Scheme seems an admirable one and should be very useful if it can enlist the intelligent and active support of the Governments and Institutions concerned. The difficulty of a large scale scheme for the training of archivists is to be sure that enough bodies are prepared to employ the archivists when trained; but as your course is being arranged under Government auspices it is to be hoped the Government of India will, as far as it can, impress upon the provincial Governments, and on those of the Indian States, the importance of providing for the care and maintenance of their archives....." (*vide* p. 174, IHRC Procs. Vol. XXIV).

In the old set up of governments in this country there were 11 provincial governments, 3 chief commissioner's provinces, nearly 175 Indian States, about 20 High and Small Cause Courts, about 100 District record rooms, 18 universities and nearly 1,000 private and public libraries and societies. All these places had vast masses of official papers, documents, manuscripts and other papers, and collections of rare and important books which must be of historical value. In the new set up of government the units have been reduced in

number but the bulk of records has not diminished. On the contrary they have increased in the course of day to day transaction of business. It is a well-known fact that the places of origin of records (Government Departments) always retain a huge mass of records called "current records" for their daily reference work. These records are in course of time transferred to the records offices but are not received in proper shape and form and present a problem to the archivist who has to accept their custody. The scope of employment therefore of trained personnel is wide. Employment of trained archivists to take charge of records even in their current stage is imperative.

Accordingly the following suggestions are made for consideration by the Commission:—

(i) All States Governments in India should fall in line with the Government of India in recognising records administration as technical work.

(ii) Ultimately all appointments to records repositories in India should be made from among Diploma holders in archive science from recognised institutions. (For the time being the National Archives of India is the only institution which gives training in archive science).

(iii) All Ministries of the Government of India and State Governments who have to retain large bodies of "current records" in their custody should employ full time Record Officers who should be diploma holders in archive science, if such a person is available, or the officer should after appointment be sent up to the National Archives of India or to an organized State record office for training.

(iv) for the next five years 4 stipends of the value of Rs. 150 p.m. should be awarded to good candidates who come up for training at the National Archives of India.

6. Proposal by Indian Economic Association

At the annual general body meeting of the Indian Economic Association held at Hyderabad on the 28th December 1948, a resolution was passed to explore the possibilities of holding a Joint Social Sciences Congress. It was reiterated at the next annual meeting held at Waltair during December 1949 and it was asked to ascertain the views of the other concerned associations about the feasibility of such a proposition.

The idea is to hold a joint meeting on the lines of the Science Congress of all the Conferences of the Social Sciences which are now meeting independently at different centres. Though the various sections of such a conference could meet separately to discuss papers after the inaugural session, it would provide an opportunity for all

workers in Social Sciences to come together and exchange ideas. Besides it may not be impossible to have certain broad topics which may lend themselves to treatment by different social scientists. A day or two may be devoted to the discussion of such subjects so that a problem may be viewed from different angles of approach. The Association feels that some common ground could surely be found between the Indian Historical Records Commission and the History Section of the proposed Social Sciences Congress. The Indian Economic Association would like to have the views of the Indian Historical Records Commission in the matter.

The Association, which is celebrating its thirty-third annual Conference at Aligarh on the 22-24 December 1950, invited the Indian Historical Records Commission to nominate at least two delegates to attend the Session. In view of the fact that the next Session of the Commission will also be held at the same time, the Honorary Secretary of the Indian Economic Association has been informed that the Commission could not send any delegate to attend the Conference.

Secretary's Note.—The scope of the Indian Historical Records Commission is limited to the location of records and manuscript materials which can serve as sources of historical information and making them available to research scholars. The methodology of historical research falls outside the scope of the Indian Historical Records Commission. It is therefore difficult to find any common ground between the proposed Social Sciences Congress and the Indian Historical Records Commission.

7. Proposal by Calcutta University on organisation of historical exhibition.

The Calcutta University is of opinion that as the meetings of the Indian Historical Records Commission are held in different places in different years, it would be more profitable if each State concentrates on local exhibits instead of trying to give each exhibition a superficial all-India character. A full exhibition of all local historical manuscripts, records, paintings, seals, coins etc., can only be ensured in this way. Each exhibition will thus have an individuality of its own. It is therefore requested that the matter may be placed before the Commission.

8. Date and place of 1951 and 1952 sessions.

9. Any other subject which may be brought before the Commission.

10. Papers laid on the table are:—

(i) Minutes of the Sixteenth meeting of the Research and Publication Committee;

(ii) Annual Reports of:—

(a) National Archives of India (1948);

(b) Madras Record Office, 1949-50;

(c) West Bengal Record Office, 1947-48;

(d) Bombay Secretariat Record Office, 1947-48.

(iii) Reports of research work from the following members:—

- (a) V. R. Dikshitar, Madras, (b) A. H. Nizami, Rewa, (c) K. A. Sajun Lal, Secunderabad-Deccan, (d) P. M. Joshi, Bombay, (e) K. K. Datta, Patna, (f) G. H. Khare, Poona, (g) Bisheshwar Prasad, Simla, (h) R. R. Sethi, New Delhi, (i) K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar, Trichinopoly, (j) A. C. Banerjee, Calcutta, (k) P. C. Gupta, Calcutta, (l) Bool Chand, Delhi, (m) B. A. Saletore, Ahmedabad, (n) K. C. Panigrahi, Bhuvaneshvar, (o) D. C. Ganguly, Calcutta, (p) L. P. Pandeya, Bilaspur, (q) T. S. Shejwalkar, Poona, (r) G. L. Chopra, Simla, (s) A. L. Srivastava, Agra, (t) S. N. Dhar, Indore, (u) S. R. Kohli, Sangrur, (v) S. N. Das Gupta, Lucknow.

(iv) Constitution of Indian Standard Institution;

(v) Inspection reports of the Director of Archives of the Central Government records in—

(a) West Bengal Record Office—March 1948 and November 1949.

(b) Bombay Secretariat, Record Office, May 1949.

(c) Assam Secretariat Record Office, November, 1949.

(d) Bhopal Record Office, November 1949.

(e) Cuttack Board of Revenue, October 1949.

(vi) Questionnaire circulated by the International Council on Archives and the replies received from the National Archives of India and other Records Offices in India.

(vii) Report on the Fourth General Conference of the UNESCO, Paris, September-October 1949.

(viii) List of books presented to the Indian Historical Records Commission or the National Archives of India.

CONSPECTUS OF ACTION TAKEN

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

Twenty-fourth session, Jaipur, February 1948

Resolution XV.—This Commission recommends the provincial Governments in the Dominion of India to give adequate grants to historical research institutions in their provinces expressly for the preservation of the collection of manuscripts and historical documents in their possession.

Government of Saurashtra have informed that there is no historical research institute in the Union at present and therefore the question of payment of any grants by the Union Government does not arise.

Twenty-fifth session, Delhi, December 1948

Resolution II.—This Commission recommends that the Government of India take steps for the preparation of a catalogue of portraits and paintings of historical interest to India in the possession of private individuals, institutions and various Government institutions in India and abroad and distribute them widely in this country.

Please see remarks of the Government of India in the conspectus, Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings Volume XXVI, Part I, page 69.

The Government of India have since addressed all the State Governments (Parts A, B and C) to collect full information in regard to Government Houses, Circuit Houses, Museums, Universities and learned institutions and private individuals within the States concerned; and also to all the Indian Embassies etc. in foreign countries to collect similar information from the Societies, Museums and private residents in countries to which they are accredited.

Twenty-sixth session, Cuttack, December, 1949

Resolution I.—This Commission draws the attention of the Government of India to Resolution III of the twenty-fifth session and further urges upon them to get back all Residency records transferred to the custody of the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom in India.

The Government of India have noted the contents of the resolution.

Remarks.—Another proposal regarding the return of the records from the U.K. High Commissioner was again considered during the 16th meeting of the Research and Publication Committee held at New Delhi in July 1950. The resolution (VII) adopted by the Committee has been forwarded to the Government of India for necessary action.

Resolution II.—The Commission expresses its satisfaction with the progress made in several branches of the Development programme of the National Archives of India. It feels at the same time that some of the branches have not been attended to adequately, they being provision for more accommodation in the National Archives of India, its proper staffing, air conditioning of the muniment rooms, **developing the Library** of the National Archives of India, and the establishment of a Map Room. The Commission feels these are items of pressing importance and should not be delayed further, and it urges upon the Government of India to make immediate and adequate provision for the above items. The Commission further feels that the compilation of a National Register of Records and Manuscripts is a work of great national importance and should be taken up immediately by the Government of India.

The Government of India have informed that in regard to the proposal of the compilation of a National Register of records, etc., they feel that the question may again be referred to the Indian Historical Records Commission in view of the attitude adopted by the different State Governments in the matter.

Remarks.—For reply of the State Governments please see conspectus, Research and Publication Committee, Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings Vol. XXVI, Part I.

The proposal is accordingly included in the agenda.

As regards other items of the Development programme of the National Archives of India a review is included in the agenda.

Resolution III.—That the Commission do record its appreciation of Dr. S. N. Sen's valuable services and urge that a resolution be passed to this effect and communicated to Dr. Sen. It is further recommended that the Commission request the Government of India (i) to appoint Dr. Sen as an additional Expert Member on the Commission, in recognition of his services and to enable the Commission to utilise further Dr. Sen's long experience in archival matters and (ii) appoint him afresh as the General Editor of the Indian Record Series, and Record in Oriental Languages Series, in his personal capacity, and as an honorary adviser to the Local Records Sub-Committee.

The Government of India have endorsed the views expressed by the Indian Historical Records Commission regarding the services rendered by Dr. S. N. Sen and have conveyed their appreciation to him.

They have appointed Dr. Sen as an Honorary member of the Local Records Sub-Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission for a period of one year *vice* Mr. K. Zachariah. They are however unable to accept the recommendations of the Indian Historical Records Commission (part i & ii) for appointing Dr. Sen as an additional Expert member of the Commission or as General Editor of the publication programme. The Director of Archives will continue to be the General Editor of the Publication Programme of the National Archives of India.

Resolution IV.—That the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission, be nominated to represent the Commission on the ensuing meeting of the International Council on Archives to be held on August 20 to 23, 1950, in Paris, and the Government of India be moved to make the necessary financial sanction for the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission, to attend the session.

The Government of India have regretted their inability to accept the recommendation.

NOTE.—The President of the Admissions Committee of the first Congress of International Council on Archives has appointed Dr. Purnendu Basu, Director of Archives, as a member of the Committee in place of Dr. S. N. Sen, former Director of Archives. The appointment has been approved by the Government of India.

Resolution V.—The Commission recommends to the Government of India that it should be individually and permanently represented on the Indian National Commission for co-operation with UNESCO, instead of taking its turn in rotation with several other bodies as at present.

The question is under the consideration of the Government of India, who have assured that the Commission's suggestions will be kept in view when a final decision in the matter is taken.

Resolution VI.—Resolved that the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission, be nominated as a member of the Indian Standards Institution Documentation Committee.

The Government of India have accepted the recommendation.

NOTE.—The constitution together with the Memorandum of the Indian Standards Institution has been placed before the meeting of the Indian Historical Records Commission.

Resolution VII.—Resolved that the representative of the Indian Historical Records Commission on the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology may be asked to make the following proposal at the next meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology; (i) that a representative of the Department of Archaeology, Government of India may be nominated on each of the Regional Records Survey Committees, who will be of assistance for taking over for the Department of Archaeology any items of archaeological and antiquarian interest discovered in the course of the activities of the Regional Records Survey Committees which do not fall within the definitions of records and historical manuscripts; and (ii) that the Conveners of each of the provincial Regional Record Survey Committees be co-opted on the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology.

A copy of the resolution together with relevant extracts from the proceedings of the meeting has been forwarded to Dr. S. N. Sen, who is the representative of the Indian Historical Records Commission on the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology, for necessary action.

Resolution VIII.—This Commission recommends that a Central Archival Authority be established by law charged with laying down the archival procedure in the country at the Centre as well as in the provinces and the States, the Central Authority being further authorised to exercise the right of inspection in order to see that the procedure laid down by it is carried out satisfactorily. The law should also define "archives".

The Commission then elected a Committee consisting of the persons mentioned below which was to meet and go into the details of the matter if the above resolution was accepted by the Government of India.

Dr. S. N. Sen

Dr. R. C. Majumdar

Professor D. V. Potdar

Professor C. S. Srinivasachari

Professor Mohammad Habib

Dr. P. M. Joshi

and the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission (to act as Secretary).

The question of enacting legislation on archives is under the consideration of the Government of India.

Resolution IX.—The Commission recommends that the suggestion above (organising the archive of Universities, Colleges, etc.) may be forwarded to all provincial Governments, States Unions, etc., requesting them to forward it to all Universities, and learned and scientific institutions started before 1900 within their areas.

The Government of India forwarded the resolution to all the State Governments. Replies received are noted below:

Government of Travancore and Cochin have forwarded the resolution to the University of Travancore for necessary action.

Government of Assam have informed that there are no University or scientific and learned institutions started before 1900 in the State.

Government of Madhya Pradesh have informed that there are no University or scientific and learned institutions started before 1900 in the State.

Chief Commissioner, Bilaspur has informed that there are no University or scientific and learned institutions started before 1900 in the State.

Chief Commissioner, Vindhya Pradesh has informed that there are no University or scientific and learned institutions started before 1900 in the State.

Chief Commissioner, Coorg has informed that there are no University or scientific institutions in Coorg established before 1900. There are however following literary institutions which were started before 1900 to whom copies of resolution have been forwarded:—

- (i) The North Coorg Club, Mercara (established before 1884).
- (ii) The Victoria Club, Virajpet (established in June, 1887).
- (iii) The Cosmopolitan Club, Mercara (established in October, 1899).

Government of Manipur have informed that no learned institution existed in Manipur before 1900.

Government of Bihar have informed that there was no scientific institution in the State. The learned institutions started before 1900 are—The Patna College, The B. N. College, The T. N. J. College, Bhagalpur and the Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna. The authorities concerned have been requested to take necessary action on the resolution.

Government of Mysore have informed that the resolution does not apply to the Mysore University as it was started in 1916.

Government of Bombay have forwarded the resolution to the Universities of Bombay and Poona, all the colleges and learned institutions in the State for necessary action.

Government of West Bengal have forwarded the resolution to the University of Calcutta and all the learned institutions established before 1900 for necessary action.

Government of Punjab have forwarded the resolution to the University of Punjab and Glancy Medical College, Amritsar, Khalsa College, Amritsar and also to the Keeper of Records of the Punjab Record Office for necessary action.

Government of PEPSU have informed that the resolution has been circulated to the authorities concerned.

Chief Commissioner, Ajmer has noted the suggestion for guidance.

Chief Commissioner, Bhopal has informed that the resolution has been circulated to the authorities concerned.

Government of Hyderabad have informed that the Osmania University, Hyderabad, is fully alive to the importance of its records and has a special Records Section of its own where files and papers are carefully preserved. The constituent colleges have also arrangements for the preservation of records and care is taken in the process of destruction of records to save all those papers which are of any historical importance.

Resolution X.—The Commission recommends that the curriculum for the Master's Degree in History and Commerce in Indian Universities should include the handling of archives and the study and criticism of unpublished documents, with a view to giving the students early training and practice in original research.

The Government of India have forwarded the resolution to the Secretary, Inter-University Board who in its turn has circulated it to all the Universities for opinion.

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